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1 February 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

25X1A SUBJECT : Conversation with General Cabell 31 January 1961 Regarding [redacted]  
and TACKLE

25X1A 1. General Cabell called to say that he felt it was appropriate for this Division to prepare a script for use in a forthcoming Presidential briefing on the two subject projects. He asked that we target for completion of the required staff work on both activities for COB 7 February 1961.

25X1A 2. In connection with [redacted] I told him that DPD was presently enjoined by DE/P to show causes why these flights should continue in the light of an NSA report which reached Mr. Bissell via a summary from [redacted] to the effect that Chinese Communist air defense development had been substantially expedited by [redacted] efforts. General Cabell said that by all means we should do our soul searching in the family on this matter before seeking Presidential concurrence in the program, but he and I agreed that any facts we marshaled in response to Mr. Bissell's request could do double duty in fleshing out the bony structure of a Presidential briefing paper.

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25X1A 3. Specifically, he requested the [redacted] script treat the following:

- a. Mechanism for handling requirements.
- b. Approvals process.
- c. The role of the DDCI in approving flight plans.
- d. Substantive justifications for psychological objectives (to be supplied by PE).

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4. The [ ] script would also take into account Korea staging, as well as activities in what he referred to as "more natural areas". This I interpreted to mean the rest of China. Compact visual aids should be prepared.

5. Substantially, the same format should be followed in presenting the facts about the TACKLE activity. The only possible difference would be that there need not be any spotlighting of the DDCI role in mission planning, since if we use the U-2 Project as a yardstick, additional changes in mission plan can sometimes be expected after the proposal leaves the Agency. Substantive justification obviously involves a synopsis of current COMAR views on the importance of Chinese Communist targets. Considerable emphasis should be placed upon coordination with PACAF and Headquarters Air Force, as well as upon the retention of command control in DPD, despite the bilateral nature of the undertaking. In both TACKLE and [ ] we should cover organization of the units in the field, both as to numbers and especially to local cover.

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6. Following receipt of these requirements, I briefed [ ] and [ ] and asked them to proceed forthwith to draw up the necessary staff work. [ ] was advised subsequently of the requirements by the undersigned and will participate with them in preparing the papers. [ ] Art Lundahl's Deputy, was in the room at the time General Cabell called, and I orally advised him we would look to PIC for graphics required in bringing together the necessary visual aids.

7. A status report meeting with the above principals has been requested by the undersigned for 2 February.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

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CC: [ ] (Copy No. 2)  
[ ] (Copy No. 3)

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